

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a furan polymer impregnated wood, comprising impregnating wood in one impregnation step with a polymerizable furfural alcohol monomer solution, said solution containing water, ~~stabilizers of borax~~ ~~[[and]]~~ ~~, a sodium~~ ~~[[salts]]~~ salt of lignosulfonic ~~[[acids]]~~ acid, furfuryl alcohol, and at least one further compound selected from the group consisting of maleic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, maleic acid, malic acid, phthalic acid and combinations thereof, followed by a curing step.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said curing step is performed at a temperature in the range of from about 70 to about 140°C.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said curing step ~~requires conventional kiln drying using the normal temperature schedules for drying untreated, green lumber of the same size and species as the impregnated wood, with temperatures~~ is performed at a temperature at the beginning of curing of about 70°C and at the end of about 80°C, with a final ~~post-curing~~ drying step between 100 to 120°C ~~for wood with maximum hardness and dryness.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said curing and drying steps can be ~~accomplished using high temperature kiln schedules in the~~ performed from about 80 to 120° C ~~temperature range.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said curing is performed by submerging the impregnated wood in hot oil at 80 to 120°C, with the temperature either fixed or starting lower in the range and increasing as curing and drying proceeds.